

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A skylight, comprising:

at least one light conveying structure having an upper end covered by a transparent cover and a lower end covered by a cover;

5 a shroud engaged with the light conveying structure and defining a light passageway; and

first and second valve elements pivotable within the shroud between an open configuration, wherein the light passageway is substantially not blocked, and a closed configuration, wherein the light passageway is substantially blocked.

10 2. The skylight of Claim 1, wherein each valve element turns on a respective axle.

3. The skylight of Claim 1, wherein each valve element defines a diameter and the shroud defines a height less than the diameter.

15 4. The skylight of Claim 1, wherein the shroud is formed with a lip circumscribing an inner surface of the shroud, the valve elements engaging the lip in the closed configuration.

5. The skylight of Claim 1, comprising an actuator actuating the valve elements.

6. The skylight of Claim 5, wherein the actuator includes a motor.

7. The skylight of Claim 5, wherein the actuator is wirelessly controlled.

8. The skylight of Claim 5, wherein the actuator is controlled by a switch
5 electrically connected to the actuator.

9. The skylight of Claim 5, comprising a power supply to power the actuator,
the power supply operating to supply power at voltages at least in the range from about one
hundred volts (100V) to about two hundred seventy volts (270V).

10. The skylight of Claim 6, comprising:
10 a reduction gear train reducing a speed of rotation of the motor to an
operating speed of a gear train shaft; and
a cam coupling the shaft to the valve elements to transform one hundred
eighty degrees (180°) of rotation of the gear train shaft to ninety degrees (90°) of
rotation of the valve elements.

11. The skylight of Claim 10, wherein each valve element turns on a respective axle, and each axle rides on the cam.

12. The skylight of Claim 5, wherein the actuator includes at least one pulley driven by at least one shape memory spring, the pulley being coupled to the valve elements.

5 13. A valve assembly for a skylight, comprising:

a shroud defining a light passageway; and

a butterfly valve in the shroud and movable between an open configuration, wherein elements of the valve extend beyond the shroud and the light passageway is not blocked, and a closed configuration, wherein the elements cooperate to block the
10 light passageway and are completely within the shroud.

14. The assembly of Claim 13, wherein the valve includes first and second valve elements pivotable within the shroud between the open configuration and closed configuration.

15 15. The assembly of Claim 14, wherein each valve element turns on a respective axle.

16. The assembly of Claim 14, wherein the shroud is formed with a lip circumscribing an inner surface of the shroud, the valve elements engaging the lip in the closed configuration.

17. The assembly of Claim 14, comprising an actuator actuating the valve elements.

18. The assembly of Claim 17, comprising a power supply to power the actuator, the power supply operating to supply power at voltages at least in the range from about one hundred volts (100V) to about two hundred seventy volts (270V).

19. The assembly of Claim 14, wherein the actuator includes a motor and the assembly comprises:

a reduction gear train reducing a speed of rotation of the motor to an operating speed of a gear train shaft; and

a cam coupling the shaft to the valve elements to transform one hundred eighty degrees (180°) of rotation of the gear train shaft to ninety degrees (90°) of rotation of the valve elements.

20. The assembly of Claim 19, wherein each valve element turns on a respective axle, and each axle rides on the cam.

21. The assembly of Claim 17, wherein the actuator includes at least one pulley driven by at least one shape memory spring, the pulley being coupled to the valve elements.

5 22. A skylight, comprising:

light conveying means for conveying light;

shroud means for engaging the light conveying means and defining a light passageway; and

first and second valve element means for selectively closing the light passageway, the valve element means being pivotable within the shroud means between an open configuration, wherein the light passageway is substantially not blocked, and a closed configuration, wherein the light passageway is substantially blocked.

10 23. The skylight of Claim 22, wherein each valve element means turns on a
15 respective axle.

24. The skylight of Claim 22, wherein each valve element means defines a diameter and the shroud means defines a height less than the diameter.

25. The skylight of Claim 22, wherein the shroud means is formed with a lip means for engaging the valve element means in the closed configuration.

5 26. The skylight of Claim 22, comprising actuator means for actuating the valve element means.

25. The skylight of Claim 24, comprising power supply means for powering the actuator means, the power supply means operating at voltages at least in the range from about one hundred volts (100V) to about two hundred seventy volts (270V).